AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A game machine comprising:

a plurality of display regions;

a display module for displaying a plurality of symbols in each display region;

an evaluation module for evaluating whether a predetermined condition is met in a game based on a betting operation input by a player; [[and]]

a selection module for determining a display region needed to change the number of symbols displayed; and

a display control module for changing a number of symbols being displayed in at least one of said display regions if the predetermined condition is met.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): A game machine according to claim 1 [[2]] wherein said display control module changes a number of symbols displayed in one, some, or all of said display regions.

4. (canceled).

5. (original): A game machine according to claim 1 wherein said display control module expands or reduces an area of said display regions of said display module to change a number of symbols being displayed.

6. (original): A game machine according to claim 1 further comprising:

a cover for covering said display regions; and a device for opening and closing said cover; wherein a number of symbols displayed in said display regions is changed by opening and closing said cover using said device.

7. (original): A game machine according to claim 1 wherein:

said game includes a normal game and a special game; and said display control module changes a number of symbols displayed in said display regions during said special game.

8. (original): A game machine according to claim 7 wherein said special game is a free game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet count.

9. (original): A game machine according to claim 1 wherein said display control module increases a number of symbols that can be displayed in said display regions to change said number of symbols.

10. (currently amended): A gaming method comprising:

receiving a betting operation input by a player,

displaying a plurality of symbols in a plurality of display regions;

evaluating whether a predetermined condition is met in a game according to the received

betting operation;

selecting a display region for changing the number of symbols displayed; and

changing a number of symbols being displayed in said selected display region at least one of

said display regions if the predetermined condition is met.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A gaming method according to claim 10 [[11]] wherein the

number of symbols displayed is changed in one, some, or all of said display regions.

13. (canceled).

14. (original): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein an area of said display

regions of said display module expands or reduces to change a number of symbols being displayed.

15. (original): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of symbols

displayed in said display regions is changed by opening and closing a cover using said a device for

opening and closing said cover.

16. (original): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein said game includes a normal game and a special game; and said display control module changes a number of symbols displayed in said display regions during said special game.

17. (original): A gaming method according to claim 16 wherein said special game is a free game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet count.

18. (original): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of symbols that can be displayed in said display regions is increased to change said number of symbol.

19. (new): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received betting operation is a MAXBET play.

20. (new): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received betting operation is a MAX line play.

21. (new): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received betting operation is an additional bet play.

22. (new): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the additional bet play is received before the start of the game.

23. (new): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the additional bet play is received after the conclusion of the game.